



Speech By
Hon. Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Small Business

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (9.56 am): This morning I am delighted to inform the House of the inaugural Queensland Small Business Week to be held from Wednesday, 24 July to Wednesday, 31 July in conjunction with the National Small Business Summit to be held here in Brisbane. The importance to our state's economy of our 412,000 small businesses will be duly recognised—something that those members opposite failed to do when they were in power.

Queensland Small Business Week will include Buy Locally Saturday on 27 July, which will be the culmination of the Think Queensland, Buy Locally campaign, which is designed to encourage Queenslanders to support their local businesses by shopping in their communities. During this week, events, workshops and seminars will be held across the state in cooperation with industry partners such as CCIQ. Queensland Small Business Week is just one of the 32 actions from the Queensland small business strategy and action plan, which I recently launched at the Business Enterprise Centre's HomeBiz expo. The Newman government has committed more than \$1 million in funding for these 32 actions across 10 government agencies. This plan builds on the government's efforts to date and articulates the policy directions and actions to be delivered over the next two years.

We in the LNP understand that small business is the backbone of Queensland's four-pillar economy, underpinning our vital sectors of tourism, agriculture, resources and construction. When small businesses grow, our whole economy grows and Queensland benefits. That is why within 100 days of coming to office the Newman government abolished the \$372 million industry waste levy—a tax on businesses right across our state, costing a small cafe or restaurant \$3,200 a year. This is just one example of the raft of changes that we are making to ease the regulatory burden on small business in Queensland.

Honourable members, in March I informed the House of the success of the business and industry portal—a one-stop shop for small business to seek guidance and information. I am delighted to update the House that, as of 7 am this morning of 4 June 2013, the business and industry portal has reached the million mark, with a total of 1,010,962 unique visitors this financial year. Last year alone, the portal reported benefits to business of \$155 million through increased efficiencies and accessibility. The Newman government is unashamedly pro small business.